

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0001184 to Kim et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the claimed features of the present invention. More specifically, the Kim et al. reference fails to disclose an illumination device that includes, *inter alia*, a plurality of optical waveguides that *each* include “a plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting layers thereon” and “a plurality of light emitting areas each corresponding to a location in which one of the light diffusion reflecting layers is formed and which light emitting areas are separated from each other,” and further wherein “the plurality of light emitting areas are disposed almost complementarily and adjacent each other when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the light emission surface,” as defined in amended independent Claim 1.

One example of an embodiment of the invention defined in Claim 1 is shown in Applicants’ Figure 1, which includes , a plurality of optical waveguides (20 and 21) that *each* include a plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting layers thereon. More specifically, optical waveguide 20 includes light diffusion reflecting layers 30a and 30b, which, as can be seen in Figure 2, are separate from each other. Similarly, optical waveguide 21 includes light diffusion reflecting layers 31a and 31b, which, as can be seen in Figure 2, are also separate from each other. Figure 2 also shows how the illumination device of this embodiment includes a plurality of light emitting areas (A1, A2, B1, B2) that each correspond to a

location in which one of the light diffusion reflecting layers is formed (30a, 31a, 30b, 31b, respectively). Additionally, Figure 2 also shows how the light emitting areas (A1, A2, B1, and B2) are separated from each other (such as by gate bus lines, not shown). Finally, Figure 2 shows how the plurality of light emitting areas (A1, A2, B1, B2) are disposed almost complementarily and adjacent each other when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the light emission surface (38 or 39).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner appears to assert that light guiding plate 400 and lamp assembly units 200 of the Kim et al. reference correspond to the claimed plurality of optical waveguides. Further, the Examiner also appears to assert that elements 500, 300 and 250/760/210 of the Kim et al. reference correspond to the claimed “plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting layers.” However even assuming *arguendo* that one of ordinary skill in the art would consider lamp assembly units 200 of Kim et al. as optical waveguides and elements 500, 300 and 250/760/210 as the plurality of separate light diffusion reflecting layers, the device of Kim et al. still does not satisfy all of the claimed features defined in amended independent Claim 1, as explained below.

More specifically, the Kim et al. reference fails to include the claimed plurality of light emitting areas that each correspond to a location in which one of the light diffusion reflecting layers is formed and which light emitting areas are separated from each other, as well as having the plurality of light emitting areas being disposed almost complementarily and adjacent to each other when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the light emission surface, as defined in amended independent Claim 1. In order for the Kim et al. reference to

include such “light emitting areas,” there would have to be a number of areas that each correspond to one of the light diffusion reflecting layers and that are almost complementary and are adjacent to each other when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the light emission surface of the associated optical waveguide. However, none of the combinations of “optical waveguides” and associated “light diffusion reflecting layers” asserted by the Examiner satisfy the feature at issue.

For example, assuming *arguendo* that Applicants accept equating element 400 with the claimed “waveguide” and equating elements 300 and 500 with the associated claimed “light diffusion reflecting layers” for this waveguide, the light emission surface of element 400 would presumably be the upper horizontal surface of element 400. Further, assuming *arguendo* that Applicants accept equating lamps 200 with the claimed “waveguide” and equating elements 250, 760 and 210 with the associated claimed “light diffusion reflecting layers” for this waveguide, the light emission surface of lamp 200 would presumably be the vertically extending surface facing element 400. Thus, the different light emission surfaces of the different “waveguides” are perpendicular to each other. However, such perpendicular light emissions surfaces cannot contain corresponding light emitting areas that are “almost complementary and adjacent each other when viewed in a direction perpendicular to the light emission surface” because there is no way to view two perpendicular light emission surfaces in a direction that is perpendicular to both of them.

Thus, as all of the claimer features defined in amended independent Claim 1 are not disclosed in the Kim et al. reference, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal

of this §102(e) rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 3 and 27.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Kim et al. reference in view of United States Patent No. 5,796,382 to Beeteson. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1, and therefore includes all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this §103 rejection be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1 and also because the Beeteson reference does not remedy the deficiencies discussed above, nor was it relied upon as such.

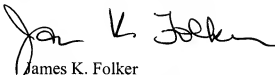
For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James K. Folker", written over the printed name.

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